nagaram and Srikakulam districts. In addition, certain areas of Karimnagar, Mehboobnagar, Chittor and Nalgonda are also treated as backward.

(b) The target fixed was 250 new post offices against which the number of post offices opened was 145. No target were fixed in respect of mobile counter service which has been discontinued.

(c) The number of proposals that could be formulated with reference to the prescribed norms was less than the target assigned. Further, pending revision of norms, and as a measure of economy only a limited number of post offices were cleared for opening during 1989-90.

Growth of circulation of newspapers in the country

1679. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the growth of newspapers per 1000 inhabitants in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the growth of circulation of newspapers is the lowest in the country as compared to other countries of the World:

(c) whether it is also a fact that the disproportionate high cost of newsprint and its low quality alongwith other restrictions has stunted the growth of circulation of newspapers, and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to reach the growth norms recommended by the UNESCO for developing countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) The Report of the Wage Boards of 1989 states that the newspaper industry has recorded a steady growth. In terms of the number of newspapers published, India ranks first in Asia and third in the World. The Report further says that over a period of 15 years, the industry has witnessed a growth of 93 per cent or roughly an average growth of 6.2 per cent per annum. With 21 copies approximately, for every 1,000 population India ranks 10th in Asia. The Government is committed to complete freedom of the Press and it is expected that it will continue to grow further and expand its circulation.

Proposal to declare cinema as an Industry

1680. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government propose to declare cinema as in industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No decision on this has yet been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

New Censor guidelines

1681. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new Censor guidelines are likely to be issued by Government soon; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes Sir.